

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, and 11 are independent. In light of the amendments and remarks made herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings; objected to the Abstract; and objected to claims 4 and 9. The Examiner further rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yamada* (USP 6,411,931) in view of *Gasper et al.* (USP 5,278,943); and rejected claims 3-5 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yamada* in view of *Gasper et al.* and further in view of *Nakatsuyama et al.* (USP 6,574,598). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Drawings

With regard to the Examiner's objection to the drawings, by this Amendment, Applicant has amended the specification to include reference numeral 10 and reference numeral S107. Based upon these amendments to the specification, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Specification

With regard to the Examiner's objection to the Abstract, by this Amendment, Applicant has amended the Abstract to correct minor

informalities. Based upon these amendments, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding objection be withdrawn.

In response to the Examiner's objection to the Disclosure, by this Amendment, Applicant has amended the Disclosure to correct minor informalities. Based upon these amendments, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding objection be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

With regard to the Examiner's objection to claims 4 and 9, by this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 4 and 9 to correct minor informalities. Based upon these amendments, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yamada* in view of *Gaspar et al.* In support of the Examiner's rejection of this claim, the Examiner admits that *Yamada* does not teach character setting information inserted as a text letter string in the mail text. The Examiner relies on *Gaspar et al.* to cure the deficiencies of the teachings of *Yamada*, asserting *Gaspar et al.* teaches a speech animation system that utilizes various speaker samples associated with identifying coefficients and parameters in order to synthesize inputted text in that particular speaker's voice, citing to col. 2, lines 23-32. The Examiner additionally notes that the inputted text is processed

according to its associated character information that contains detailed speech data such as prosody and pitch, citing to col. 5, lines 50-59. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of these references and further submits that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103. The Examiner has failed to provide references that teach or suggest all of the claimed elements.

The disclosure of *Gasper et al.* is directed to speech animation and an inflection system. The voice animation system decomposes pre-recorded samples of actual speech into basic segments. These basic segments are used to derive speech patterns of a particular speaker to provide parameters and coefficients for use in a text-to-speech synthesizer. The synthesizer artificially synthesizes human quality speech with unlimited vocabulary in the voice of the person who provided the pre-recorded samples (Abstract). *Gasper et al.* additionally teaches that the voice animation system disclosed may be used alone in such applications as entertainment systems and speech therapy. *Gasper et al.* additionally teaches the invention may be used in conjunction with other systems such as an audiovisual animation system or data compression for voice mail and other messaging systems (col. 6, line 66 - col. 7, line 3).

In contrast, the present invention as set forth in claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an electronic mail device capable of locally reproducing an electronic mail text, comprising a mail device that recognizes character setting information inserted as a text letter string in the mail text. The mail device additionally refers to the character setting information and vocally reproduces the mail text by a specified character's voice synthesized based on the character setting information by the voice synthesis control unit.

The Examiner admits that *Yamada* fails to teach this feature of claim 1. Although the Examiner relies on *Gasper et al.* to cure the deficiencies of the teachings of *Yamada*, *Gasper et al.* merely states that the invention may be used within voicemail or other messaging systems. There is no specific teaching in *Gasper et al.* that suggests recognizing character setting information inserted as a text letter string in the mail text as set forth in claim 1. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness by failing to provide a reference that teaches or suggests all of the claimed elements.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 2-5 are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1 at least based upon their dependency on claim 1. It is further respectfully submitted that claims 6 and 11 contain elements similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1 and, thus, claims 6 and 11,

together with claims dependent thereon, are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1.

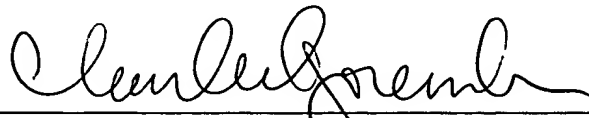
Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisinnet (Reg. No. 52,327) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment(s): Amended Abstract